

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/672,000

Examiner

John H. Le

Applicant(s)

SCOTT ET AL

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's response filed 06/15/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-52.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's response filed 06/15/2005 has been entered and carefully considered.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1-52 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Please see the previous office action and applicant's argument filed on 06/15/2005.

Regarding claim 1, none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests the combination of a diagnostic system for use in a process plant having a process control system that performs manufacturing related control functions with respect to the process plant and a safety system that performs safety related control functions with respect to the process plant, wherein the diagnostic system comprising a diagnostic application stored on the memory of the computer and adapted to be executed on the processor to enable one or more users to perform a diagnostic activity with respect both the process control system and the safety system, the diagnostic application including a communication routine adapted to communicate process control system messages to or from the process control system controller and to communicate safety system messages to or from the safety controller, wherein the process control system messages and the safety system messages use a common communication format including a field that distinguishes the process control system messages from the safety

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system messages. It is these limitations as they are claimed in the combination with other limitations of claim, which have not been found, taught or suggested in the prior art of record, that make these claims allowable over the prior art.

Regarding claim 20, none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests the combination of an alarm display system for use in a process plant having a process control system with a process control system controller that performs manufacturing related control functions using one or more process control field devices, a safety system with a safety system controller that performs safety related control functions using one or more safety system field devices, and a computer having a display and a processor communicatively coupled to the process control system controller and to the safety system controller, wherein the alarm display system comprising: a first routine that communicates process control system messages to or from the process control system controller and that communicates safety system messages to or from the safety system controller, wherein the first routine is adapted to receive process control system messages including process control system alarms and to receive safety system messages including safety system alarms; and a second routine that displays the process control system alarms and the safety system alarms to one or more users on the display in a manner that distinguishes the process control system alarms from the safety system alarms. It is these limitations as they are claimed in the combination with other limitations of claim, which have not been found, taught or suggested in the prior art of record, that make these claims allowable over the prior art.

Regarding claim 36, none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests the combination of a method of handling alarms in a process plant having a process control system with a process control system controller that performs manufacturing related control functions using one or more process control field devices and a safety system with a safety system controller that performs safety related control functions using one or more safety system field devices, wherein the method comprising steps of receiving process control system messages at a first location from the process control system controller, wherein one or more of the control system messages includes a control system alarm; receiving safety system messages at the first location from the safety system controller, wherein one or more of the safety system messages includes a safety system alarm; and using a single user-interface application at the first location to display the process control system alarms and the safety system alarms to one or more users in a manner that distinguishes the process control system alarms from the safety system alarms. It is these limitations as they are claimed in the combination with other limitations of claim, which have not been found, taught or suggested in the prior art of record, that make these claims allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John H Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2275.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John H. Le

Patent Examiner-Group 2863

July 7, 2005

BRYAN BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER


7/11/05